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Finding Words

In 1998, CornerHouse entered into a collaborative venture with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) to present the CornerHouse model of training on the national stage in a new format titled Finding Words™. Currently, one national Finding Words™ course is held annually. For more information, contact NDAA's National Child Protection Training Center at angelica.hoskin@ndaa.org or 507.457.2892.

Half a Nation By 2010: A Partnership Opportunity

In partnership with CornerHouse, The National District Attorneys Association's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse presents Finding Words: Half a Nation by 2010. Finding Words™ is a five-day forensic interviewing course for prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection caseworkers, and forensic interviewers. The Half a Nation project brings this intensive training to interested states in a train the trainer model. To date, South Carolina, Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Georgia, Missouri, Illinois, Maryland, West Virginia, Kansas, Ohio, Arkansas, Delaware and Virginia have completed the process and have fully functional programs in their individual states. In 2007 Connecticut and Oklahoma will complete the program.

If your agency is interested in bringing Finding Words to your state in the future, you are invited to submit an application. Please click on the link http://www.ndaa-apri.org/pdf/half_nation_application_06.pdf and you will be taken to the application materials. If you have any questions, please contact the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse in Alexandria, Virginia at (703) 549-4253 or the National Child Protection Training Center in Winona, Minnesota at (507) 457-2890.

Other Training Opportunities

CornerHouse can develop unique training sessions to meet individual and agency specific needs. This includes presenting at conferences, conducting agency in-services, or contracting for training services. Areas of expertise include:

- Child sexual abuse
- Child witnesses to violent crime
- Issues related to memory/suggestibility
- Using anatomical dolls

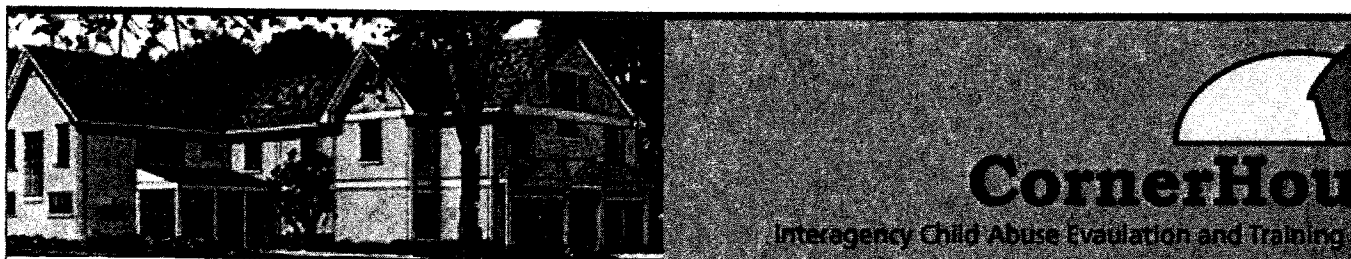
The cost for this training is generally \$2000.00 per day (or \$250.00 per hour) plus trainer expenses for a negotiated number of participants. For more information about hosting a unique training session, contact Jodi Lashley at Jodi.Lashley@childrensmn.org or 612.813.8325.

**"The most
 complete
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 ever atten**

— Training Partic

**"I learned
 from [my
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 in the field**

— Training Partic



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About CornerHouse



CornerHouse was founded in 1989 as a private, non-profit organization in public-private partnership with Hennepin County Attorney's Office, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, suburban Hennepin County police departments, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department, Hennepin County Medical Center and Children's Hospitals and Clinics-Minneapolis.

At CornerHouse we are guided by The Child First Doctrine:

The Child First Doctrine

The child is our first priority.

Not the needs of the family.

Not the child's "story."

Not the evidence.

Not the needs of the courts.

Not the needs of police, child protection, attorneys, etc.

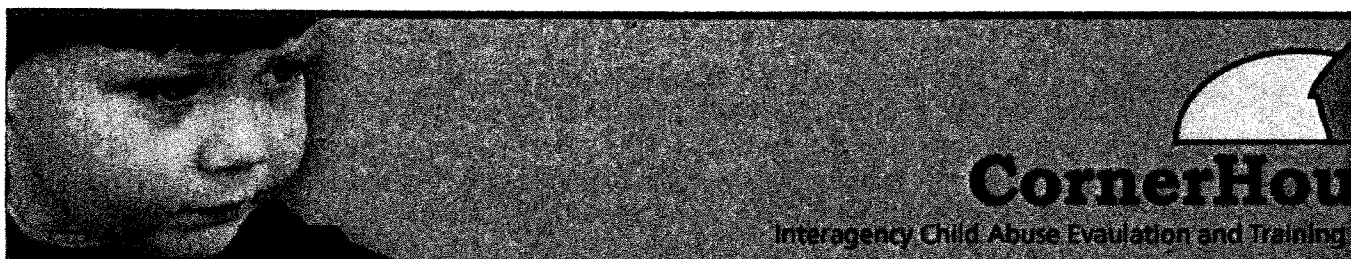
The child is our first priority.

CornerH Vision

To maintain the highest quality intervention systems for children alleged victims of abuse and violence.

CornerH Mission

To assess suspected child sexual abuse, coordinate forensic interview services, and provide training to other professionals.



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Forensic Interview Services



CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center is committed to improving the assessment and investigation of child abuse, specifically in those cases involving sexual abuse. CornerHouse is an integral component in facilitating the coordination of an interagency multidisciplinary team consisting of Hennepin County professionals from law enforcement, child protection, and the county attorney's office. The collaboration that takes place among professionals provides an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise pertaining to issues of investigation and the needs of children.

Forensic interviews are conducted in a child friendly environment by professionals trained in a wide spectrum of areas related to childhood development, sexual abuse dynamics, and other pertinent issues pertaining to questioning children regarding allegations of abuse. CornerHouse has adopted the "Child First Philosophy" which states that the needs of a child are given the first priority during the forensic interview process.

CornerHouse attempts to conduct forensic interviews in a manner that is considerate of a child's culture and ethnicity. In cases where English is not the child's primary language, CornerHouse will arrange for a court-certified interpreter to be involved in the interview. The anatomical drawings and dolls utilized by CornerHouse in the forensic interview are age and culturally appropriate to the child. The forensic interview is based on the semi-structured RATACTM protocol that has been designed through clinical experience and the review of empirical research to maximize the child's ability to communicate his or her experience. The Forensic Interviewer conducts the interview in a manner that is developmentally appropriate for a child's cognitive, social, and emotional abilities.

Members of the multidisciplinary team observe the forensic interview through closed-circuit television. CornerHouse videotapes every forensic interview and provides a copy to the primary investigator. Following the forensic interview, the multidisciplinary team members participate in a post-interview meeting for

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[the
CornerHouse
staff has]
changed th
and saved
lives of co
children be
through...
contact... a
indirect co
as trainers**

— Program Parer

the multidisciplinary team members participate in a post-interview meeting for the purpose of coordinating the roles that each professional will assume in the investigation and protection of the child. The responsibility of the CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer is one of maintaining his or her objectivity as a neutral fact finder about a child's experience. The CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer will provide a written synopsis regarding the finding of the interview, child's affect and ability, and multidisciplinary team's recommendations.

CornerHouse's vision is one of "To maintain the highest quality intervention system for children alleged to be victims of abuse and violence."